

Mr. Schwerd said that the 4-H Program needed to be strengthened. To that end, he said Cornell now required the Executive Director to be 100% administration.

In addition, he explained, they had upgraded a para-professional hourly employee position to an exempt salaried 4-H Team Coordinator position. He apprised that the Horticulture Community Educator was piloting a new Horticulture program and this position would work with the green industry, as well as homeowners and small businesses. Mr. Schwerd stated that one of the Administrative Assistants was retiring and the position would not be replaced. He said that the majority of the requests in the 2008 proposed Budget were at the 2006 Actual levels.

Mr. Schwerd apprised that the Agriculture & Livestock - Extension Services Budget (A.8750) reflected a 2008 request of \$462,500 as compared to the 2007 appropriations of \$441,618, an increase of \$20,882. He added that of the \$20,882, \$18,000 was for salary increases for 16 staff members. He stated that 1.2% of the increase was for the operating expenses of the agency.

Mr. Schwerd apprised that the Executive Director of the agency would be applying for additional grants and contracts to help fund the programs. He added that the 'Eat Smart New York' Program could bring in an additional \$9,000 to enhance the agency's programs. He advised that the cost of summer camp for 2008 had increased. Ms. Davis stated that the agency would be able to send 100 children to the least expensive camps with the requested funds.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Geraghty asked if the agency paid for the cost of maintaining the building and grounds and Mr. Schwerd affirmed. He added that the agency was working more closely with the County than they had in the past. Mr. Geraghty asked if there had been an upswing in the amount of participation in the programs. Mr. Schwerd stated that there had been a lack of leadership in the past that had been turned around. He added that 4-H participation was up 50% and he hoped to increase it further in the coming year. Mr. Geraghty apprised that the printed materials that came from the agency were high quality and very informative.

Mr. Payne entered the meeting at 11:43 a.m.

Mr. Schwerd stated that the agency was undergoing a change in the constitution that would give the County the right to have one voting member on the Board of Directors.

Mr. West stated that the grants that had been received in 2007 had helped to purchase supplies for the Warren County Fair. He added that a number of materials that had been purchased would be helpful to the Fair in years to come.

Mr. Geraghty stated that if additional grants were received for 2008 they could be used to offset some of the salaries. Mr. Schwerd stated that the 'Tobacco Free' grant had been approved and the funds should be received by December.

Mr. West stated that 3/4 of the budget was for salaries. He added that a very small pool of funds was available for staff development, programs development, etc. Mr. Geraghty suggested that programs be measured in the future to track who the participants were and how many were attending. Ms. Davis stated that the agency was reaching out to the youth in the community. Mr. Schwerd advised that the agency was looking into the possibility of a skateboard park.

Ms. Davis stated that the agency hoped to reach more potential program participants with the proposed satellite office. Mr. Schwerd attributed the increased attendance at the Warren County Fair to the Occupancy Tax funding that was received from the County.

Mr. F. Thomas said that one of the goals of the agency's Board of Directors was to choose an Executive Director that would be more prominent within the community, which would ensure that more people were aware of the existence of the agency. Mr. Schwerd stated that much of the agency's programming was geared toward economic development, such as agriculture and horse care.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Sheehan and carried unanimously to approve the 2008 Extension Services Budget, as presented, and to authorize the Committee Chairman to sign it and refer same to the Budget Officer.

Ms. Davis apprised that the Youth Program 4-H Camp (A.7310) Budget reflected a request of \$31,500 as compared to the 2007 appropriations of \$28,400, an increase of \$3,100. She stated that she had discovered that it would cost a minimum of \$315 per week to send a child to summer camp in 2008. She explained that the agency sent 100 children to camp each year. She added that the agency had a waiting list for camp scholarships. Mr. Geraghty asked where the children were sent to camp and Ms. Davis responded Skye Farm Camp in Warrensburg.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Sheehan and carried unanimously to approve the 2008 Youth Program 4-H Camp Budget, as presented, and to authorize the Committee Chairman to sign it and refer same to the Budget Officer.

Mr. F. Thomas thanked Mr. Schwerd for his service to the Warren County Cornell

Cooperative Extension and added that he felt the agency was going in a good direction.

As there was no further business to come before the Extension Services Committee, on motion made by Mr. Sheehan and seconded by Mr. Geraghty, Mr. F. Thomas adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlene DiResta, Legislative Office Specialist